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Among the German delegation to the Congress was Otto Umfrid, the distinguished city preacher of Stuttgart, who has filled all that part of Germany with knowledge of the principles and purposes of the peace movement. It was the first time we have seen him in a peace congress.

The press was unusually well represented at the Congress, and the papers of Rouen gave daily a large amount of space to reports of the proceedings. A number of the dailies of Paris also had accounts of the deliberations.

Brevities.

. . . The artist Doche is painting a picture of the Peace Conference at The Hague. The canvas is an immense one, the figure of each delegate being life size. The painting is being done for the Netherlands government, and when finished is to be copied in Gobelin tapestry for the state.

. . . "Plain Talk in Psalm and Parable," by Ernest Howard Crosby, which is full of peace ideas, is issued in a paper edition at one shilling per copy by Francis Riddell Henderson, 26 Paternoster Square, London. The Comrade Coöperative Company, 11 Cooper Square, New York, have imported a part of this (third) edition and will be glad to supply any who may wish copies.

. . . The United States is represented among the counsel which are arguing the Venezuelan preferential treatment case at The Hague by William L. Penfield, Solicitor of the State Department, Hon. Wayne MacVeagh and Herbert W. Bowen, Minister to Venezuela.

. . . The estimates for the War Department for the next fiscal year amount to about \$78,000,000, a slight increase over last year. The Navy Department will ask for about \$103,000,000, which is several millions more than was called for last year.

. . . Dr. Thomas Barclay, who did so much to promote public opinion in Great Britain and France in favor of a treaty of arbitration between those countries, has been visiting in this country with the Mosely Commission. He addressed the faculty and students of Yale University on October 27, on the subject of a general arbitration treaty between Great Britain and the United States.

. . . The British Ambassador at Madrid, Sir Henry Mortimer Durand, has been appointed by King Edward as Ambassador to this country, to succeed the late Sir Michael Henry Herbert. We welcome him, and hope he may prove to be as full of peace and goodwill as the two ambassadors who preceded him.

. . . Edwin D. Mead read a valuable paper on "The World's Debt to Holland in the Cause of Peace" before the International Council of Unitarian and other Liberal Religious Thinkers, recently held at Amsterdam, Holland. The substance of the paper was printed in "The Unitarian World" (5 Essex Street, Strand, London, W. C.) for October.

. . . International Arbitration was one of the subjects discussed at the recent meeting of the National Civic Federation in Chicago.

A Regular International Advisory Congress.*

BY BENJAMIN F. TRUEBLOOD.

It was not until comparatively recently that writers on the subject began to take account of international congresses and conferences as sources of international law. Our distinguished American authority, Henry Wheaton, does not, even in the last edition of his work, mention them among the sources. This is true of all the writers of forty years and more ago.

But so rapidly have these congresses and conferences developed in frequency and importance during the last generation that they have begun to force themselves upon the attention of international law writers, though as yet they have received but scant notice. One of our latest American writers, Mr. Hannis Taylor, in his extended treatise on public international law, published only two years ago, catalogues five sources, and places congresses and conferences in the first category, along with arbitration tribunals, etc. It is almost certain that every future writer will closely follow his example.

There is nothing more significant in the recent history of international relations than these gatherings of the official representatives of governments, whether they be considered from the point of view of their personnel, their number and frequency, the ends for which they have been assembled, or the wide and increasing influence which they have exercised upon the attitude of the nations towards each other, and in the extension of the reign of law among them. It is a bit curious, therefore, that so little attention has been given to them, to the grounds of their existence, and their bearing on the present and future development of civilization in its larger world-aspects. They have not even been catalogued, much less studied and interpreted.

I have made and have here a list of the more important of these meetings since 1815, to the number of thirty-three.† The number is actually considerably

* A paper read at the Twenty-first Conférence of the International Law Association, Antwerp, Belgium, September 30.

† LIST OF INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES AND CONFERENCES.

- 1815. The Congress of Vienna, which adjusted the questions left by the Napoleonic campaigns.
- 1822. The Congress of Verona, for the promotion of the purposes of the Holy Alliance.
- 1825. The Conference of St. Petersburg, which prepared the way for the independence of Greece.
- 1831. The Conference of London, which made Holland and Belgium independent nations.
- 1856. The Congress of Paris, which disposed of the questions entailed by the Crimean War.
- 1864. The Geneva Congress, which established the International Red Cross Society.
- 1867. The Conference of London, which neutralized the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg.
- 1868. The Congress of St. Petersburg, which provided for the restriction of the use of certain types of bullets.
- 1871. The Conference of London, which modified the Paris Treaty of 1856.
- 1874. The Congress of Brussels, which prepared a restatement and improvement of the laws of war.
- 1874. The First International Postal Congress, held at Berne, which organized the Universal Postal Union.
- 1875. The Metrical Diplomatic Congress at Paris, which prepared the International Metric Convention, and provided for the meeting of a general Conference on Weights and Measures at Paris, at least once every six years.